

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 25015

Dear Leader Reid:

Yesterday, the Senate voted on two proposals to fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year. This three-hour debate gave only a limited opportunity to debate what many Americans believe is the most pressing issue of our time – cutting government spending and dramatically reducing our national debt. Additionally, no member of the Senate was permitted to offer amendments under the structured process, which in our opinion prevents a full, open, and robust debate.

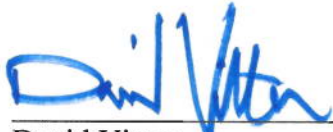
With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit in the very near future, taxpayers expect Congress to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds. The American people want Congress to deal with the tough issues of cutting spending, and almost every member of the Senate has agreed that we must address our fiscal situation immediately.

While there are certainly many issues that warrant the Senate's consideration, we feel that the Senate must not debate and consider bills at this time that do not affirmatively cut spending, directly address structural budget reforms, reduce government's role in the economy so businesses can create jobs, or directly address this current financial crisis.

The American people resoundingly rejected the way the Senate waited until Christmas Eve as a mechanism to force hurried debate on President Obama's massive health care legislation. Voting to proceed to another legislative measure effectively runs away from the central issues of spending and debt and repeats that flawed process.

We, therefore, are notifying you of our intention to object to the consideration of any legislation that fails to directly address this crisis in a meaningful way. Our objections would be withheld if the Senate agrees to dedicate significant floor time to debate this issue well in advance of the federal government reaching its statutorily-mandated debt limit.

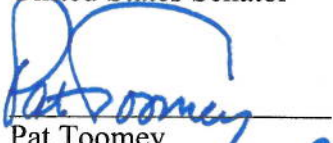
Sincerely,



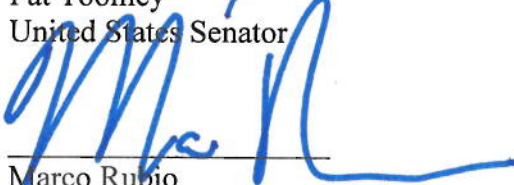
David Vitter
United States Senator



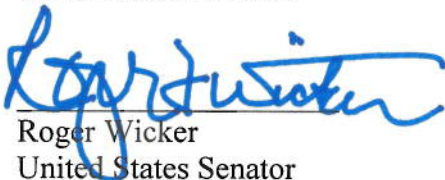
John Ensign
United States Senator



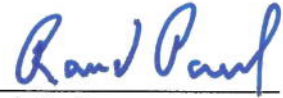
Pat Toomey
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



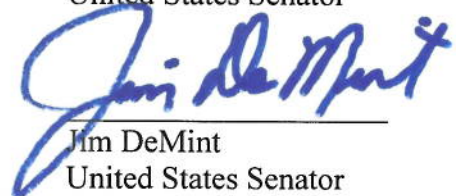
Roger Wicker
United States Senator



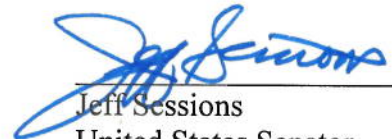
Rand Paul
United States Senator



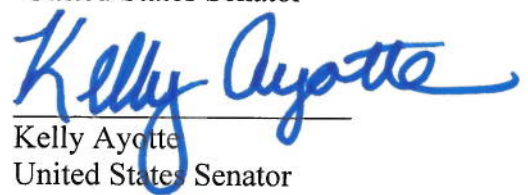
Mike Lee
United States Senator



Jim DeMint
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator